Sainik Samachar

465. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Ministry proposed to introduce Kannada edition of SAINIK SAMACHAR, news-magazine, some years back;

(b) if so, whether the Kannada edition has come out, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the Kannada edition is likely to be published?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Kannada edition could not be brought out so far due to lack of suitable editorial staff and some delay in finalisation of a printer.

(c) All efforts are being made to bring out the inaugural issue of the Kannada edition within the next two months.

in Supreme Court

466. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the backlog of cases in the Supreme Court as on 31st October, 1988;

(b) whether the backlog of cases is increasing or decreasing;

(c) what are the measures contemplated to speed up the cases in view of the heavy backlog of pending cases in Supreme Court;

(d) what is the ratio of Supreme Court Judges in relation to population, filling of cases and other relevant parameters in our country when compared to developed countries; and

(e) the number of vacancies of judges in Supreme Court and the reasons for delay in the appointment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) As per information furnished by the Registry of the Supreme Court the backlog of cases in the Court as on 30th June, 1988 is as follows:

Regular Hearing Matters .	39936
Admission and Miscellaneous Matters	146014
TOTAL .	185950

(b) The number of cases is increasing.

(c) A statement indicating the steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency of cases in the Supreme Court is attached in Statement (See below)

(d) In India, the strength of Judges in Supreme Court is determined by institution|pendency of cases and on the basis of proposal sent by the Chief Justice of India, from time to time. No study regarding ratio of Supreme Court Judges in relation to population and in comparison to developed countries has been undertaken. The strength of the Supreme Court Judges was raised to 26 Judges (including the Chief Justice of India) by enactment of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Act. 1986.

(e) As on 10th November, 1988, there were 11 vacancies of Judges in Supreme Court against the sanctioned strength of 26 Judges (including the Chief Justice of India). The process of consultation for filling up the vacancies takes time.

Statement

1. The judge strength of the Supreme Court has been raised from 18 to 26 (including the Chief Justice, with effect from 9th May, 1986 by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act 1956.

2. The following steps are being taken in the Supreme Court to expedite disposal of cases:—

(i) Matters involving common question of law are grouped together and listed in groups so that they can all be disposed of together.

(ii) In most of the matters, printing of the appeal record is dispensed with, which saves a lot of time and expense of the litigants. In criminal appeals, counsel for the appellant is required to file cyclostyled record to save time, which would otherwise be taken in getting the record printed, so that the matter could be heard early.

(iii) To save the Court's time, Hon'ble the Chief Justice is taking mentioning matters, which takes about one hour on each day, after the court hours.

(iv) Supreme Court Rules have been amended empowering Hon'ble Judge in Chambers and the Registrar to dispose of certain types of matters which were previously being listed in the court. This has been done to save the Court's time.

(v) Specialised benches are constituted by Hon'ble the Chief Justice and particular types of matters are assigned to such specialised benches for quick disposal.

(vi) Computer technology is soon going to be introduced in the Supreme Court, which is expected to help, reduce the backlog of cases considerably.

(vii) Recently Hon'ble the Chief Justice has directed that the counsel in each matter should file written arguments, if the arguments are to take more than five hours on each side. The oral arguments on each side are now restricted to five hours unless the Court feels that more time is to be given to the counsel in which case a maximam of ten hours are given for oral arguments to counsel on each side. The length of oral arguments by counsel of both the sides has thus been curtailed with a view to securing quick disposal of matters.

(viii) A Court Administrator-cum-Registrar General, who is a senior judicial officer, has been appointed very recently so that in conjunction with the present two Registrars there can be a re-organisation of the working of the Registry and improving its techniques and efficiency.

Approval of sardar sarovar and Narmada Canal Irrigation Projects

467. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sardar Sarover Project and Narmada Canal Irrigation Project are finally approved by all the concerned departments of the Government of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that on completion Narmada Project would give twenty five per cent return every year on total investment; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Gujarat Government have taken required precautions for the safeguards of the environment and the rehabilitation of the oustees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The benefit cost ratio of the project was worked out to be about 2

(c) The State Government have prepared an action plan for safeguarding the environment and rehabilitation of the oustees.

Per Hectare cost of Major Dams

468. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the per hectare cost of major dams completed and sanctioned during the last three years;